

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 PA-02 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 IO-14  
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O 142216Z PEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI

UNCLAS STATE 039007

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 14, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON  
BRIEFING FEBRUARY 14, 1978:

Q: I WONDER IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN STATE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY TOWARDS THE HORN IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT OVER THE  
WEEKEND SINCE THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THERE HAS BEEN ESSEN-  
Tially A STATE OF WAR DECLARED BY SOMALIA, AND THEY HAVE  
MOBILIZED REGULAR TROOPS, ETC.

NOW, THAT BECOMES AN OFFICIAL INVASION FORCE. AND IN THOSE  
CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOULD ETHIOPIA RESPOND AS A COUNTRY UPON  
WHOM WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED, WOULD THAT TEND TO CHANGE THE  
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CIRCUMSTANCES OF WHICH VANCE SPOKE ON FRIDAY.

A: WE HAVE NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY, AND MR. VANCE DID COM-  
MENT ON THE WAY THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT BE CHANGED, BUT  
REFUSE TO SPECULATE, AND HE SAID WE WOULD JUST HAVE TO SEE  
AT THE TIME WHAT WOULD HAPPEN UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REVISED FIGURES ON TROOPS, MILITARY PER-  
SONNEL, SOVIET AND/OR CUBAN?

A: NO, GEORGE, WE DO NOT.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON WHAT CUBAN FORCES MIGHT BE ON THE WAY TO ETHIOPIA? THERE ARE REPORTS ABOUT SHIPS SAILING FROM SEVERAL DESTINATIONS TO ETHIOPIA LAST WEEK.

A: NO, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q: DID ANY OF THOSE SHIPS ARRIVE?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF SHIPS. I HAVE JUST SEEN REPORTS ABOUT SHIPS.

Q: KEN, ON THE HORN, THE SECRETARY SPOKE FRIDAY ABOUT BORDER CROSSINGS, AND IN SUCH A CASE THAT WOULD BE A NEW SITUATION. DO YOU KNOW, OR COULD YOU CHECK WHETHER PLANES STRAFING CITIES INSIDE SOMALIA IS CONSIDERED BORDER CROSSING BY ETHIOPIA?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THAT, JUAN. I THINK WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION AND DECIDE AT THE TIME ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HAPPENED. BUT I DON'T WANT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO QUALIFY WHAT -- I THINK WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AN INCURSION, AN ARMED INCURSION, INTO SOMALIA.

Q: THERE WAS A VERY PRECISE STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY WHEN HE SAID, IF THERE ARE BORDER CROSSINGS, IT IS A NEW AND DIFFERENT SITUATION AND WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER IT. BUT HE DIDN'T SAY WHETHER IT WAS MANNED OR AIR OR SEA BORDERS.

A: I THINK THERE MAY BE A DIFFERENCE IN SOME ACTIVITY THAT MAY TAKE PLACE RIGHT ON THE BORDER IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE AND A DELIBERATE, SPECIFIC INCURSION, AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: COULD YOU CHECK HOW THE AIR RAIDS FIT INTO THE BORDER CROSSING?

A: OKAY.

Q: KEN, ALSO ON THE HORN, HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ANY REACTION OR RESPONSE TO SECRETARY VANCE'S SUGGESTIONS MADE LAST FRIDAY FOR ENDING THE WAR?

A: I HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF STATEMENTS BY SOMALI OFFICIALS, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE ANY OFFICIAL REACTION.

Q: DID THIS COME UP IN YESTERDAY'S OR TODAY'S TALK BETWEEN

THE SECRETARY AND DOBRYNIN?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: COULD YOU INQUIRE SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THE SECRETARY REITERATED HIS URGING THAT THE SOVIET UNION PULL ITS ADVISORS OUT OF ETHIOPIA AND COOL DOWN THE SITUATION?

A: ROY, I DON'T THINK I WILL BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIFICS OF THE CONVERSATION.

Q: ANOTHER QUESTION REGARDING THE HORN, HAS THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

A: NO. HE ASKED TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY, BUT HE DID NOT APPLY FOR ASYLUM.

Q: UNDER WHAT GROUNDS WILL HE BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN HERE?

A: JIM, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. HE DID MAKE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, REQUESTS TO THE INS TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY, AND THE INS HAS THAT REQUEST UNDER STUDY. THIS WAS FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JANUARY 29TH, AND WE DO KNOW SPECIFICALLY THAT HE DID NOT REQUEST ASYLUM. BUT FOR DETAILS, I THINK THE INS WOULD HAVE TO REPLY.

Q: THEY SAID THEY HAD NO RECORD OF HIM MAKING ANY REQUEST AT ALL, NO APPLICATION OR ANYTHING.

A: I WOULD CHECK THAT, BECAUSE THIS WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING, THAT HE HAD MADE THIS REQUEST TO THE INS, AND I WILL LOOK INTO THAT, BECAUSE THIS WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ON WHAT BASIS HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY, IF NOT UNDER POLITICAL ASYLUM?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS, BUT THERE ARE PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH, AT LEAST ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN.

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Q: WOULD HE BE GRANTED ASYLUM IF HE ASKED FOR IT? AND DO YOU KNOW WHY HE RESIGNED?

A: JUAN, REGARDING THE FIRST QUESTION, SINCE HE DIDN'T

ASK FOR ASYLUM, I WON'T SPECULATE. AND REGARDING THE  
SECOND QUESTION, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON  
WHY HE RESIGNED, AND I THINK THAT WOULD BE UP TO HIM TO  
MAKE THAT STATEMENT.

Q: HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN HERE?

A: HE HADN'T BEEN VERY LONG. IT WAS A QUESTION OF MONTHS,  
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE SPECIFICS OF THAT, EITHER.

ANYTHING ELSE ON THE HORN? VANCE

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